

Endangered Species Day Activities Southwest Region 2

Saturday, May 15, from 10-2, Region 2 Regional Office and the New Mexico Field Office staff will be celebrating Endangered Species Day at the Albuquerque, New Mexico, BioPark. The BioPark (<http://www.cabq.gov/biopark/>) is the combination of the Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Garden, Rio Grande Zoo and Tingley Beach (along the Rio Grande River) with Discovery Stations to teach folks about the importance of protecting endangered species and actions that folks can take to help wildlife and their habitat.

Endangered Species Day Activities Southeast Region 4

Alabama: [Lead contact: Denise Rowell 251-441-6630] The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is celebrating Endangered Species Day by encouraging students to learn about threatened and endangered plants, fish, and animals through art. The Service is hosting a statewide art calendar contest open to all students in public, private or home schools. To enter, the student will draw or color a picture of one or more species listed as threatened or endangered in the state of **Alabama**.

Judges will pick 13 winners throughout the state. The winners will be broken down into one winner per grade, beginning with grade one and ending with grade twelve. Each winner's artwork will represent a month on our 2011 Endangered Species Day Calendar. The overall state winner's artwork will be the calendar's cover. In addition, the **overall** winner's classroom will also be given a \$500 gift card for biology/science supplies, and have his or her artwork framed with a plaque. We will announce the winners on Endangered Species Day, May 21, 2010. [<http://www.fws.gov/daphne>]

Arkansas: Arkansas Field Office - 2010 Endangered Species Day

Contact: Erin Leone 501-513-4472

The Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office has organized the 1st Annual Endangered Species Day Art Contest. The art contest is similar to the national contest sponsored by the Endangered Species Coalition with several modifications. All art work must illustrate an endangered, threatened, or candidate species that occurs or has historically occurred in Arkansas. We will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes to the following age groups: K-2, 3-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Each winner will receive a Service plaque and a VISA gift card in the sum of \$100, \$50, and \$25, respectively. The overall winner will receive an additional \$500 VISA gift card. In support of the art contest, we sent out informational packets to every school campus in the state (~1,400), home school groups, and the Environmental Education News mailing list (~2,800 educators). The packets contained information and links to our contest, the national contest and the Endangered Species Coalition curriculum.

We are working with Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission to promote endangered species day, the curriculum, and art contest at teacher workshops this summer. The goal is to host several teacher workshops next summer, guiding teachers through the curriculum and introducing them to the art contest. We are also working to correlate the state standards to the art contest to encourage teachers to incorporate the curriculum and contest into their classroom. [<http://www.fws.gov/Arkansas-es/esday.html>]

Florida:

PCFL: Indigo Snake Exhibit at local Kids Museum

Contact: Laura Jenkins 850-769-0552 x252

Jr Museum of Bay County, FL

- Purchase of the snake and materials for the Museum to have an exhibit
- Participate with Museum for the "grand opening" of the exhibit
- Provide educational materials about the snake as a NW FL T&E species as well as other T&E species in NW FL

Program with Middle School

Contact: Vivian Negron-Ortiz 850-769-0552 x231

Mowat Middle School, Bay County, FL - about 3 groups will participate (about 50 students)

An interactive and educational talk about biodiversity and climate change:

- educate about NW FL endemic and rare species (T & E species), current threats (including climate change)
- present PCFL "A Typical Work Day for FWS is Not Your Typical Day" (if possible a copy will be provided) Our GIS biologist and Densie Rowell put together a 12-minute presentation we can use anywhere, the presentation stresses that we work for T&E species and their habitats. Pretty photos and beautiful music!

SOFL: [Lead contacts: Dana Hartley 772-562-3909 x236; Paula Halupa 772-562-3909 x257]

Date: Saturday May 22, 2010

Time: 10AM-2PM

Venue: Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge

Target Audience: Families, with activities and information for both children and adults

Anticipated attendance: 500-1,000

Objective: Raise awareness for endangered species, their habitats, and threats and increase visibility of the Refuge and SFESO.

Activities

- 9AM - Private dedication of "Joe Michael Memorial Trail" followed by public opening at 10AM with ongoing van rides to the overlook (~3/4 mile from parking lot).
- "Make a manatee" booth - an interactive way for children to learn about a local, endangered mammal
- Fish printing booth
- Butterfly garden (at the actual butterfly garden and its neighboring kiosk)- with education on endangered and candidate butterfly species in S FL, habitats, and threats and a list of butterfly species found at Pelican Island NWR.

Kiosk area for adult (and child) education where we will use posters created for Earth Day to explain about endangered and threatened species (and habitats) in S FL including:

- Voluntary conservation agreements (Safe Harbor and Candidate Conservation Agreements)
- FL panther
- Federally listed plants of Lake Wales Ridge
- A poster detailing all listed species found at Pelican Island and Archie Carr NWRs (made especially for Endangered Species Day)
- Ecological Services booth - explaining where our office is and what we do
- Survival Suitcase (includes collection and explanation of illegal wildlife products confiscated by enforcement)

JAFL: [Lead contact: Bill Brooks, 904.731.3136]

On May 21, we propose to set up multiple stations with endangered species-related exhibits (see list of potential exhibits below) on the large lawn at the Jacksonville Zoo. In addition to wandering around the various exhibits, visitors will have the option to participate in an endangered species scavenger hunt. They will be given a sheet with a list of items (e.g., sea turtle skull) that they must go find amongst the exhibits. There will be a sticker with a unique symbol (e.g., triangle, circle) hidden on each scavenger hunt item. They must make note of each unique symbol with the items on their list. In many cases, they will need to ask the biologists manning the stations some questions in order to find the items on the list and discover the hidden symbols. We will be giving away small prizes to everyone who participates in Endangered Species Day (e.g., activity/coloring book, temporary tattoo). We will also award special prizes (e.g., stuffed animal) using a random selection process. We plan to invite our partners to participate (e.g., Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Georgia DNR, St. Johns River Water Management District) in the event with us.

Potential exhibits:

1. Plants - color photos of the different listed plants in NE Florida, maybe some live plants as well
2. Reptiles - sea turtle parts and products, live gopher tortoise, gopher tortoise burrow scope, eastern indigo and Atlantic salt marsh snake photos
3. Mammals - manatees bones, whale bones, Anastasia Island and southeastern beach mouse photos, Atlantic salt marsh vole photos
4. Birds - Florida scrub-jay diorama, wood stork decoy with satellite tag and map of movements, whooping crane leg, egg, life-size cutout, spotting scope and binocs to view a bald eagle nest
5. Tools of a Biologist - dipnet, seine net, mist net, Sherman live traps, mouse eartags, trail camera
6. Prescribed Burn/Fire Truck
7. Manatee Boat

Georgia:

Regional Office: [Lead contact: Kelly Bibb; 404-679-7132] On May 21, we will be celebrating with the Atlanta Botanical Garden. We plan to set up multiple stations with endangered species-related exhibits and activities at the Garden in close partnership with their amphibian conservation scientists and botanists. In addition to wandering around the various exhibits and gardens, visitors will have the option to interact with Garden and USFWS staff. Activities are still being planned, but we envision they will include live animal and plant demonstrations, educational activities, and fun games – interactive type lessons for all ages. [A list of potential exhibits and times will be added soon]

We also are planning a celebration with a local nature center and possible lectures in collaboration with a local company [details coming].

ATGA: [Lead contact: Deborah Harris; 706-613-9493 ext 224]

For Endangered Species Day this year, Georgia Ecological Services (ES) Will be doing initiative to assist Georgia National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs). The emphasis will be to learn about the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) and the ongoing recovery efforts for that species.

The teachers at Jasper County Schools near Piedmont NWR are committed to teaching the children about natural resources and endangered species in their local area. We will work with about 600 students on activities at the Refuge and outdoors at the school to actively engage them about the RCW and other endangered species and what the Service is doing to help recover them. The high school students and a group of Girls Scouts will use binoculars at the NWR and have a chance to see an RCW during nesting season. They may also be able to help band the nestlings. At the school, we will use an active Project Wild type game, as well

<p>as teach them about observing birds with binoculars.</p> <p>We plan to purchase backpacks with the FWS logo and put a pair of binoculars, endangered species materials, and field guides in each one. These will be kept at the Refuges for year-round outreach. We will also have endangered species day stickers, fact sheets, coloring sheets and other items as handouts for each student.</p>
<p>Kentucky: [Lead contacts: Mike Floyd and Carrie Lona; 502-695-0468]</p> <p>(1) We want to partner with the NPS (Big South Fork National River and Rec Area), KSNPC, KDFWR, and USFS (and maybe the Cookeville office) to have a field event on the Big South Fork near the TN state line. KSNPC is planning to survey all the Cumberland rosemary sites this year, so we plan to pick one of those sites (gravel bar at the mouth of Troublesome Creek) to do some invasives and exotics control (mostly mechanical). We also plan to help the Park financially to treat others. Apparently, mimosa is a really big problem in these areas - the rosemary sites are losing the battle.</p> <p>This site is also the same place where we translocated mussels last year (with KDFWR), so we have that opportunity as well. If river conditions are low, we can look for them.</p> <p>(2) Our second idea is to produce a KY T&E poster - something that can be shared throughout the year - beyond End Species Day. KDFWR will probably have all the photos we need.</p>
<p>Louisiana: [Lead contact: Debbie Fuller 337-291-3124, Monica Sikes]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will participate in a two-day celebration at Audubon Zoo in New Orleans again this year. On Friday, we anticipate mostly school groups and in addition to the hands-on activities below, we will be distributing ESA Teacher Packets. Our hands-on activities at the zoo on Friday and Saturday include making endangered species bookmarks, and distributing suggested reading lists of nature books; sponsoring a scavenger hunt for endangered species that are in the zoo; we hope to run the "Be A Bear Obstacle Course" featuring the Louisiana black bear life history; and teach whooping crane origami and education. • We will be cooperating with Kisatchie National Forest and LDWF Heritage Program to host a one-day outdoor classroom for a local school group focusing on the ESA and endangered species of LA. Kids will be able to see and learn about candidate (LA pine snake), threatened (LA pearlshell mussel), endangered (RCW), and recovered species (bald eagle). • In conjunction with the national ESD art contest we will setting up a month-long display of endangered species art created by children of our office staff, other offices in our building, and other partners. We hope to end the display with a cookies and ice cream social.
<p>Mississippi: [Lead contact: Terri Jacobsen; 601-321-1129]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An endangered species program to 6 schools (grades 2-3). • In May, we will post some of the children's art work at the Mississippi Natural Science Museum. This will be used for a 2011 calendar featuring the children's endangered species poster art work. • Working with an art instructor, we will hold a painting class to do a series of paintings of MS endangered species. During each painting class, we will give out information about endangered species and give a presentation about the particular T&E species we are painting. • I also hope to hold a teacher workshop on endangered species to tie the painting series together. The artwork and T&E information will then be displayed at local public libraries, nature centers and museums.
<p>North Carolina:</p> <p>ASNC: [Lead contact: Gary Peebles; 828-258-3939]</p> <p>We will be putting resources and work in toward a riverside outdoor classroom at a high school that abuts Appalachian elktoe habitat. For a specific Endangered Species Day event, we imagine scheduling a ground breaking event and get people from our office out to work on construction and giving some river programs to the kids.</p>

RANC: [Lead contact: Dale Suiter; 919-856-4520, ext 18]

A media event each day that week will bring attention to each of four priority species: golden sedge, red cockaded woodpecker, Tar River spiny mussel and Cape Fear shiner. The North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Museum of Natural Sciences will have exhibits and tours on Endangered Species Day.

Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands: [Lead contact: Lilibeth Serrano; 787-851-7297 ext 239]

The Caribbean Field Office proposes to build awareness and mobilize community involvement. The Caribbean Field office will hold outreach activities, including a festival, to attract people to nature by appealing to the aesthetic, cultural and spiritual values of nature and highlight the 21 threatened and endangered species in the Northern Karst Region. El Merendero park is managed by the Municipality of Quebradilla and is the perfect backdrop for the event, as it is one of the few places where the Harlequin butterfly can be found during its early development stages. It also has several federally listed species or is current range for several federal listed species, candidates, and species of concern. During the event we will have a full-day of exhibits, caterpillar explorations, artistic activities, presentations and entertainment. We will make the event open to the general public. There will be activities for kids (transects, hands on type stuff, and a biologist boot camp where kids and adults can do field work/activities) presentations on endangered species, and trails for adults.

South Carolina: [Lead contact: Jennifer Koches; 843-727-4707]

March 24, 2010: Charleston Air Force Base has their Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration where about 1,000 5th grade students from throughout Charleston County come to learn from exhibitors about natural resources. We will have an Endangered Species booth at the event.

April 23, 24, 25, 2010: The Santee Birding and Nature Festival - draws a few hundred folks into the Central South Carolina region for 3 days of birding and nature activities/field trips. We have an exhibit hall set up at the Santee Cultural Arts Center where participants in the festival browse exhibits. A booth will highlight Endangered Species Outreach.

Tennessee: [Lead contact: Wally Brines and Geoff Call; 931-528-6481]

Participate in the City of Crossville's 2010 Sustainability Fair for 500 fifth graders from Cumberland County, TN, April 29, 2010.

Produce stickers and magnets of four to five TN endangered species (plant, mussel, fish, bat, crustacean).

Produce map of Cumberland County T&E Species to distribute during the Crossville 2010 Sustainability Fair.

Wally Brines will conduct 8 Threatened and Endangered Species Cargo Kit Programs at area schools, will send letter to area schools announcing availability of Cargo Kit Program, and, will send letter to area boy and scout troops announcing availability of Cargo Kit Program.

Geoff Call to conduct an interpretive walk with the TN Native Plant Society on June 26, 2010.

Wally Brines will conduct an Endangered Species Cargo Kit Program at the Nature Fest on the TN Tech University Campus on April 22, 2010.

Wally Brines will conduct a hummingbird program at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville on May 6, 2010, for the Audubon society.

ES DAY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES REGION 5

- Early May event at Wells Reserve working on habitat for the New England Cottontail- talk, walk and volunteer planting.
- May 15th event at Gray Wildlife Park with tabling, ES display and talk by FWS
- Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, MD
 - Puppet Show “Little Whooper’s Excellent Adventure”
Sat. May 22nd, 10:30am and 1pm National Wildlife Visitor Center
Follow the life of a very special endangered Whooping Crane as he learns to migrate with the help of his human friends. All ages welcome. Program is approximately 20 min.
 - Endangered Species Presentation
Fri. May 21st, 1-2pm, Ages 14+
Listen to Refuge Manager, Brad Knudsen; discuss endangered species and the role United States Fish and Wildlife Service plays in the lives of these fragile species.
 - Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?
Sat. May 22nd, 3-4pm, All Ages
Celebrate Endangered Species Day by exploring the challenges that face endangered and threatened species of North America

ES DAY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES REGION 6

- A Regional Office In-reach Event for Service staff (Thursday, 5/20/2010) - The day before Endangered Species Day, we will celebrate the day in the Regional Office by offering programs on the Wyoming toad, black-footed ferret, and piping plover recovery programs, with expert presenters and some live animals to see. (Team lead: Heather Johnson)
- The Wildlife Experience Educational Booth (Saturday, 5/16/2010) - The Service will staff an Endangered Species Day booth that includes various information and ties in with the exhibits at this center. Staff at The Wildlife Experience are putting together activities and games for visitors. (Team lead: Anna Schmidt)
- Downtown Aquarium Educational Booth (Friday, 5/21/2010) - The Colorado River Fish Recovery program will staff an educational booth that focuses on endangered fish from 10 AM until 2 PM. (Team lead: Debbie Felker)
- Educational Booth at the Denver Zoo (Friday, 5/21/ 2010) - As part of the Denver Zoo's celebration of Endangered Species Day, the Service will staff an educational booth at the zoo near the polar bear exhibit. (Team lead: Helen Speights - (303) 236-4388)
- Denver Botanic Gardens (week of May 17 -21) - The Denver Botanic Gardens is going to incorporate endangered species messages into a "celebrating wildflowers" event all week targeting school groups. (This program will be led by their education department rather than Service staff)(Team lead: Seth Willey)
- School Programs in the Denver Metro Area - The team would also like to reach out to schools and other groups in the Denver metro area by giving educational programs about endangered species in the several weeks leading up to Endangered Species Day. We are looking for volunteers interested in giving an educational program about wildlife and endangered species at a local school, please contact Dee Emmons by April 19th . We have a fun endangered species activity set up that we train the volunteers on. Dee will contact schools to try to set up a match with an area class that is interested in learning about endangered species. Or, if you have a particular school or other group in mind, such as your own child's school, you are welcome to talk with that group directly and then work with Dee for scheduling and when to borrow the wide variety of wildlife materials available in the RO for education. (Team lead: Diane (Dee) Emmons -- (303) 236-4392)
- Ferret Classroom Web Event: We are looking into conducting an educational live webcast targeted at schoolchildren in the Fort Collins area. The program will have a classroom component led by Kimberly Tamkun of the City of Fort Collins Open Space Program and will include live links to the ferret center (with baby ferrets!) and out in the wild to a prairie dog town. No additional volunteers needed. (Team lead Leith Edgar)
- Library Story Hours: Most public libraries have a regularly scheduled storytime each week with a changing theme. We are putting together a list of

children's books and craft activities that explore endangered species issues. Volunteers anywhere in the region can contact their local library to encourage and participate in an endangered species day storytime event. (Team lead: Sarena Selbo). If you are interested in doing a reading at your local library , please contact Sarena at (303) 236-4046 for the book list.

- Ute Water Festival (May 17 and 18): we will provide staff working at this event with endangered species posters and stickers so that they can tie endangered species day into this already scheduled event. This event reaches almost every 5th grader in the local school district.
- Grand Valley and Ouray Fish Hatcheries provide student tours in May to school groups -- we will provide them with endangered species posters and stickers so that they can tie endangered species day into this already scheduled event.
- Roosevelt Park Zoo (North Dakota): staff from the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge will be partnering with the zoo to hold an Endangered Species Day event. They anticipate 500 - 1000 kids. The zoo has 17-18 listed species but will concentrate on 10, providing the kids with a passport that they can get stamped for each species.
- Sully Hill National Game Preserve -- will tie Endangered Species Day into their Warbler Weekend on May 22nd and 23rd. We are providing them with stickers and posters.
- Creston Fish Hatchery -- they are planning a school event at the hatchery the week after ESA day. They anticipate ~200 school kids. We are providing them with stickers and posters.